

Rapid Watershed Assessment Middle Allegheny-Redbank Watershed

Rapid watershed assessments provide initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders. These assessments help landowners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve their goals.





Table of Contents

Preface	1
Introduction	2
Common Resource Areas	3
Elevation	3
Land Use	
Annual Average Precipitation	5
National Wetland Inventory	
Agriculturally Impaired Streams	6
Abandoned Mine Drainage Impaired Streams	7
Abandoned Mine Land	8
Urban Runoff/Storm Sewer Impaired Streams	9
Streams with Other Sources of Impairment	9
Exceptional Value and High Quality Streams	10
Pennsylvania Trout Waters	.10
Total Maximum Daily Load	
Water Quality Testing Points	
Water Resource Points	
Natural Heritage Inventory Sites	.13
Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas	
Important Bird Areas	
Important Mammal Areas	14
Soils	
Drainage Classification	15
Farmland Classification	
Hydric Soils	17
Highly Erodible Land	
Capability Class	
Cultivated Crops on Highly Erodible Land	20
Cultivated Crops on Hydric Soils	
Cultivated Crops on Poor or Unsuited Soils	.21
Cultivated Crops within 1000 ft of Agriculturally	
Impaired Streams	.21
Resource Concerns	22
Performance Results System Data	.23
Census and Social Data	
Partners	
Footnotes26 -	- 28





Preface

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is initiating rapid watershed assessments in order to increase the speed and efficiency generating resource information to guide conservation implementation, as well as the speed and efficiency of putting it into the hands of local decision makers. While these rapid assessments provide less detail and analysis than full-blown studies and plans, they do provide a foundation for watershed studies or area planning. In addition, the assessments provide the benefits of NRCS locally-led planning for resource conservation and conservation program implementation in less time and at a reduced cost than more complex studies.

Rapid watershed assessments will be valuable for Farm Bill program delivery, and provide useful information for county, watershed and regional planners. These assessments provide initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders. These assessments can help landowners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve their goals.

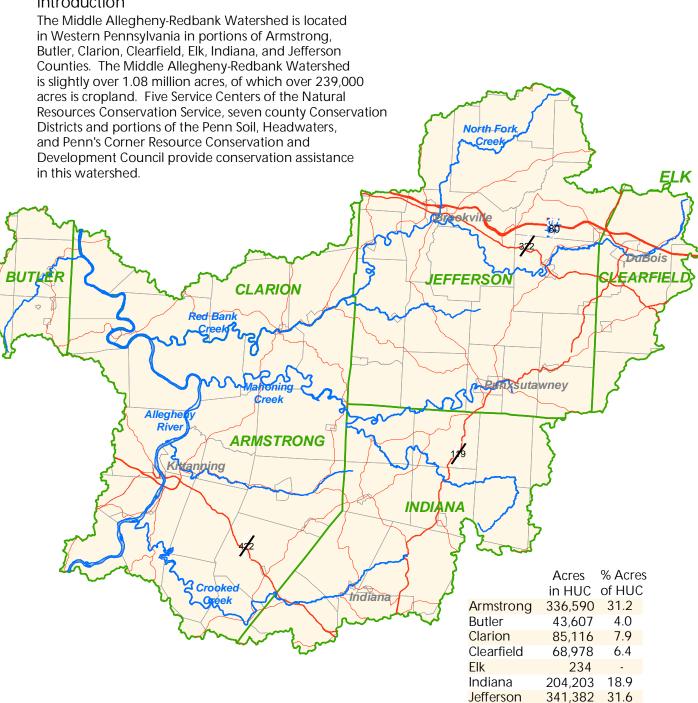
To produce the assessments, quantitative and qualitative data is collected and organized to create a watershed profile using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. The data is analyzed to allow resource concerns and conditions to become apparent, and to generate maps and information to help people make better decisions about conservation needs and programs.

/s/ Craig R. Derickson
Pennsylvania State Conservationist





Introduction



Middle Allegheny-Redbank Watershed

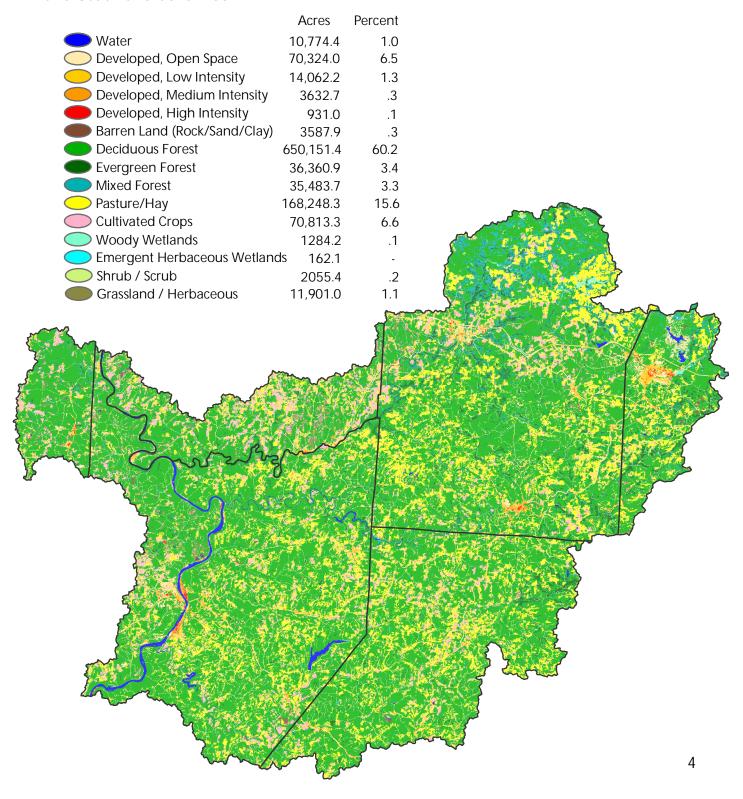
Common Resource Area (CRA)¹ 124 - Western Allegheny Plateau: This CRA is on a dissected plateau that consists of narrow, level valley floors, rolling ridge tops, and hilly to steep ridge slopes. Soils are moderately deep to very deep, excessively drained to somewhat poorly drained, and loamy. Most farms in the area are for hay and feed grain. 127 - Eastern Allegheny Plateau and Mountains: This CRA is on a dissected plateau with steep slopes and level to gently rolling areas in the northern part. Soils are moderately deep to very deep, excessively drained to somewhat poorly drained, and loamy. Corn, small grain, and feed for diary and beef cattle are the principle crops grown. 126 - Central Allegheny Plateau: This CRA is on a dissected plateau that is underlain mainly by horizontally bedded sedimentary rocks. Narrow, level valleys and narrow, sloping ridge tops are separated by long, steep and very steep side slopes. Soils are mainly shallow to very deep, excessively drained to somewhat poorly drained, and skeletal to clayey. Most farms in the CRA are beef cattle and diary farm operations. Elevation² Elevation in the Middle Allegheny-Redbank Watershed ranges from 2287 feet (697 meters) at it's high point to 735 feet (224 meters) at a low point.

2287 Feet 735 Feet

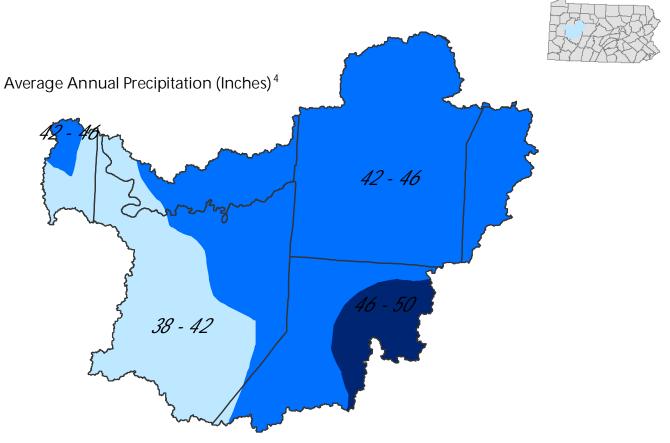


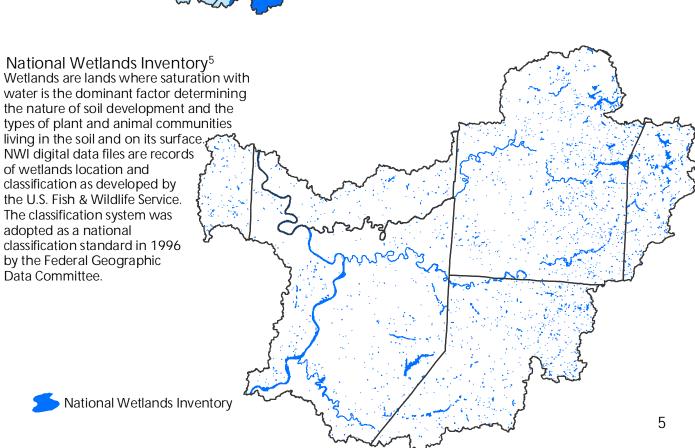


Land Use / Land Cover 2001³





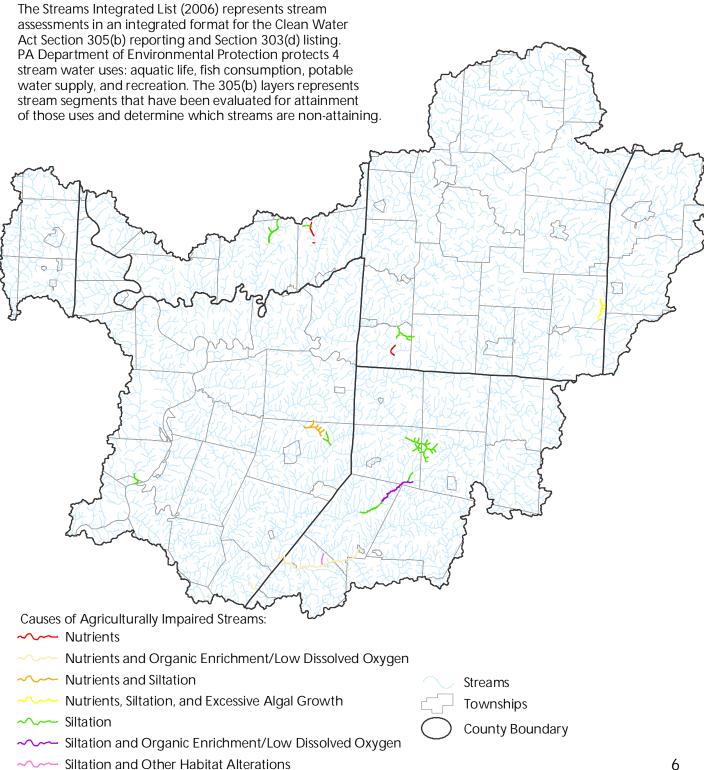








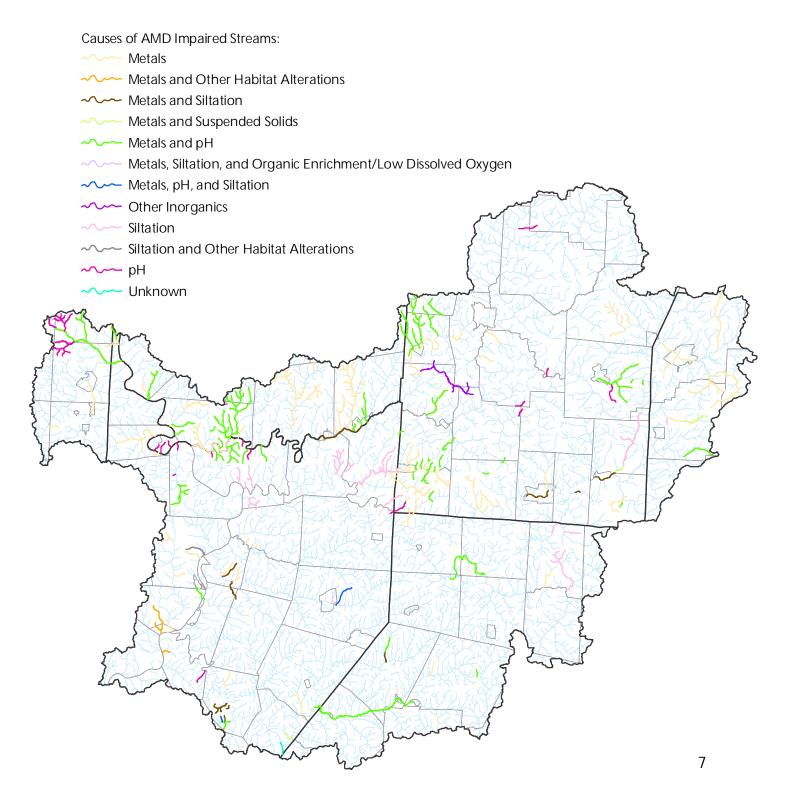
Impaired Streams ⁶







Abandoned Mine Drainage Impaired Streams



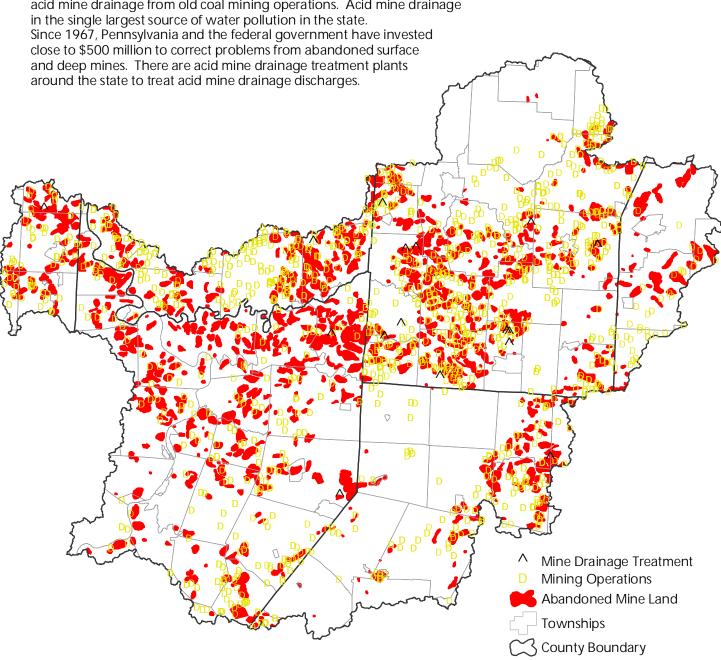




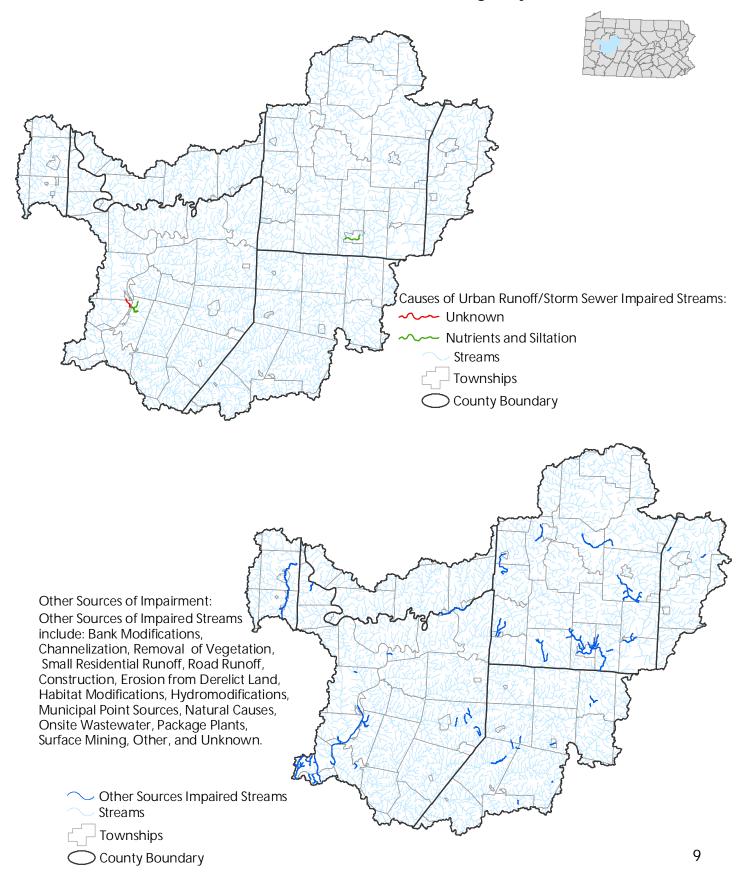
Abandoned Mine Land ⁷

Coal mining in Pennsylvania began in the mid-1700's. Pennsylvania is the fourth largest coal producer in the United States, producing over 69.5 million tons in 1995 in 878 mining operations.

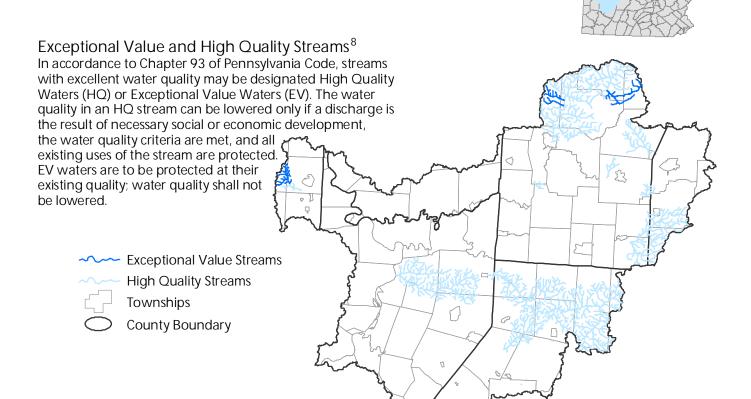
The environmental legacy of hundreds of years of coal mining in PA includes over 2,400 miles of PA's 84,000 miles of streams effected by acid mine drainage from old coal mining operations. Acid mine drainage in the single largest source of water pollution in the state.

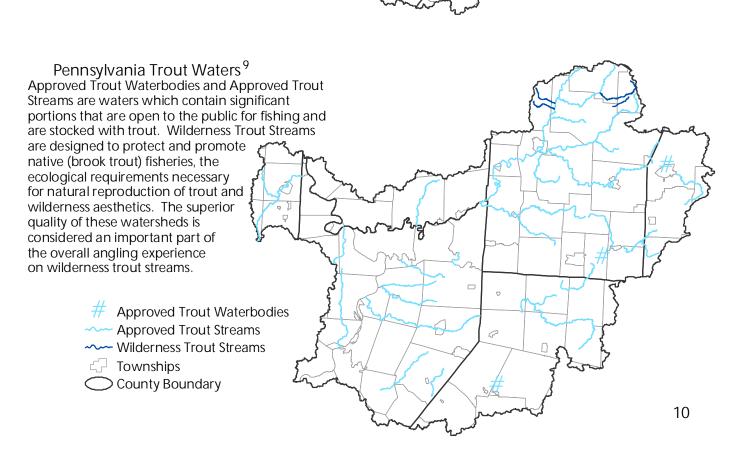


Middle Allegheny-Redbank Watershed

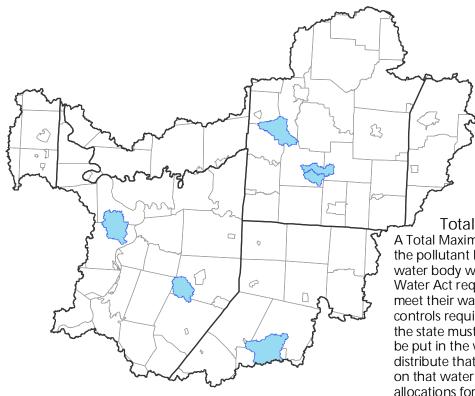








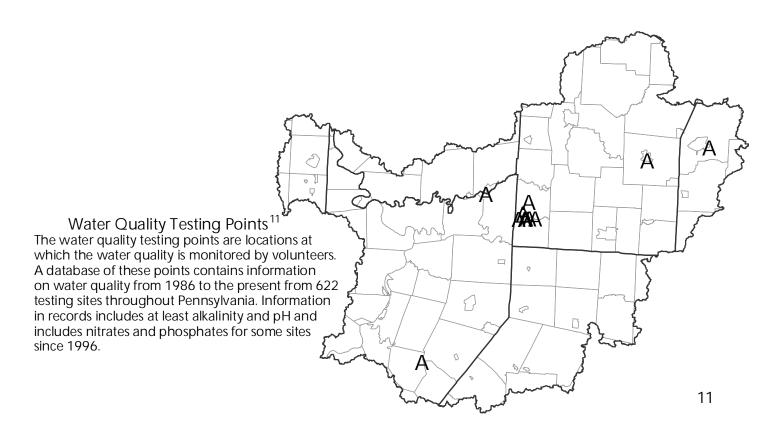
Middle Allegheny-Redbank Watershed





Total Maximum Daily Load ¹⁰
A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) sets a ceiling on the pollutant loads that can enter a water body so the water body will meet water quality standards. The Clean Water Act requires states to list all waters that do not meet their water quality standards even after pollution controls required by law are in place. For these waters, the state must calculate how much of a substance can be put in the water without violating the standard and distribute that quantity to all the sources of the pollutant on that water body. A TMDL plan includes waste load allocations for point sources, load allocations for nonpoint sources, and a margin of safety.

TMDL plans were completed in the shaded areas in 2001 or 2003 due to Acid Mine Drainage.







Water Resource Points 12

A Water Resource is a DEP primary facility type related to the Water Use Planning Program. The sub-facility types related to Water Resources that are included are:

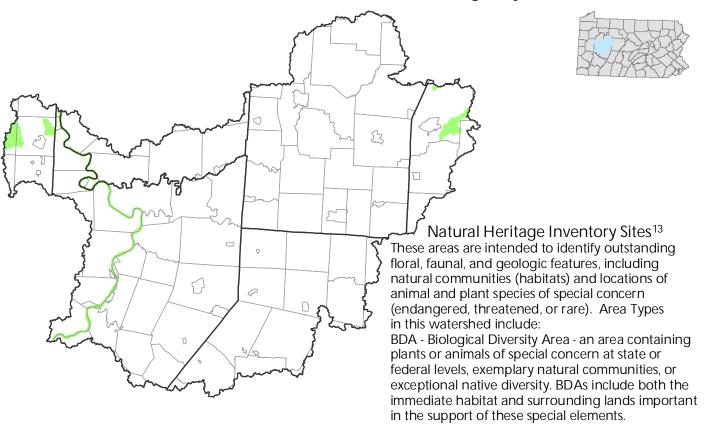
Discharge: represents the return of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility type may be a sewage treatment plant, instream discharge, spray irrigation field, groundwater recharge, on-lot septic or an unidentified facility type.

Ground Water Withdrawal: represents the withdrawal of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility type may be a well, spring, quarry, infiltration gallery, deep mine, surface mine or an unidentified facility type.

Interconnection: represents the point of interconnection between Water Resources primary facilities. The subfacility type may be for an interconnection between two public water supply agencies or between a public water supply agency and a commercial or industrial water user.

Storage: represents the storage of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility type represents raw or treated water storage and may be a quarry, standpipe, open off-stream reservoir, closed off-stream reservoir, instream reservoir, hydroelectric dam, natural lake, pond, silt dam, hydroelectric pumped storage or an unidentified facility type. Surface Water Withdrawal: represents the withdrawal of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility type may be an instream diversion, intake from a dam, natural lake, pond, river well, or an unidentified facility type. b 3-**4** Discharge **Ground Water Withdrawal** b Interconnection b bh Storage b b Surface Water Withdrawal (5) **Townships** 0 County Boundary b b 12

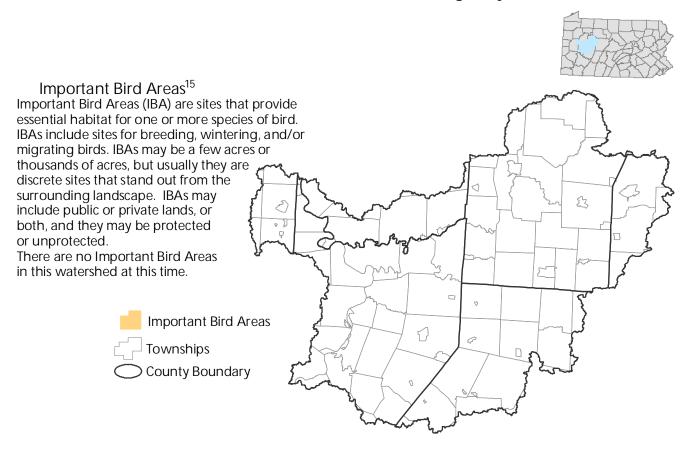
Middle Allegheny-Redbank Watershed



Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas 14

The 1st Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (1992) assesses the distribution of breeding birds across the state. The areas below are confirmed breeding areas for species. Fourteen birds species from Pennsylvania's state Wildlife Action Plan associated with agricultural landscapes were focused on in this assessment, not all have confirmed breeding area in this watershed. # American Woodcock # Blackbilled Cuckoo Bobolink Eastern Meadowlark **Grasshopper Sparrow** # Henslow Sparrow Northern Bobwhite Northern Harrier Redheaded Woodpecker Yellow Breasted Chat Townships County Boundary 13





Important Mammal Areas 16 The Important Mammal Areas Project is being carried out by a broad based alliance of sportsmen, conservation organizations, wildlife professionals, and scientists. The primary concern is to help ensure the future of Pennsylvania's wild mammals, both game and non-game species. Although particular attention is given to species of special concern, they are also interested in habitats that simply have high mammal diversity. Because a 23 commitment to preserve natural heritage requires understanding the needs of native species, they also identify places where people can learn about mammals and enjoy them in their natural environment. There are no Important Mammal Areas in this watershed at this time. 0 Important Mammal Areas **Townships** County Boundary 14



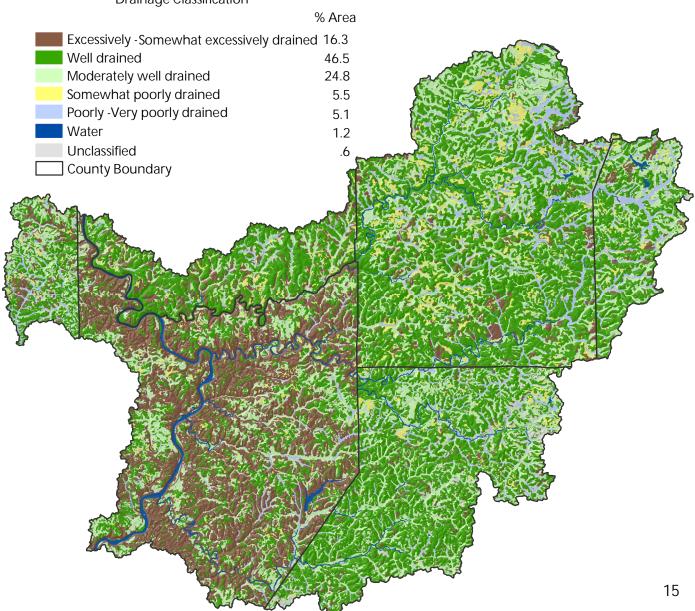
Soils 17



Drainage Classification

Drainage class (natural) refers to the frequency and duration of wet periods under conditions similar to those under which the soil formed. Alterations of the water regime by human activities, either through drainage or irrigation, are not a consideration unless they have significantly changed the morphology of the soil. Seven classes of natural soil drainage are recognized -- excessively drained, somewhat excessively drained, well drained, moderately well drained, somewhat poorly drained, poorly drained, and very poorly drained. These classes are defined in the "Soil Survey Manual."

Drainage Classification

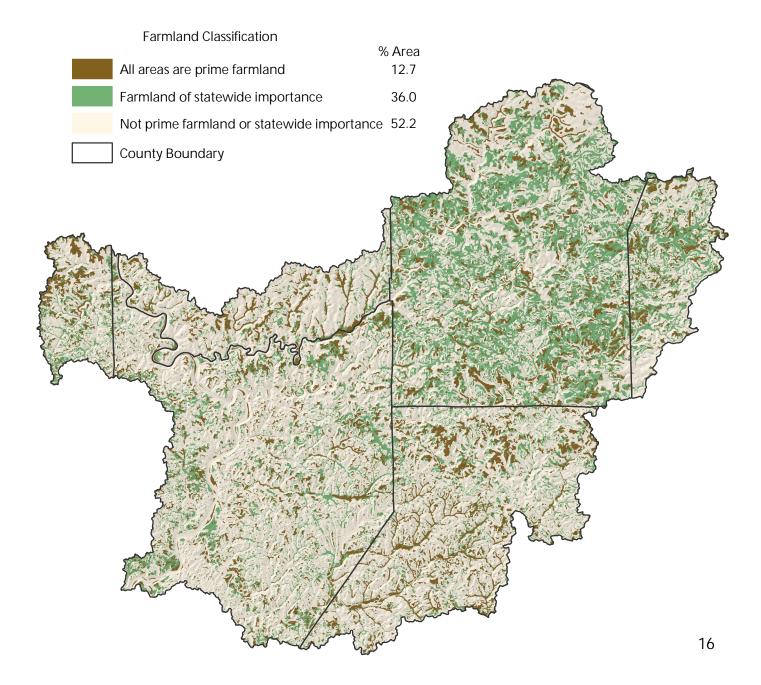






Farmland Classification

Farmland classification identifies soil map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. Farmland classification identifies the location and extent of the most suitable land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.



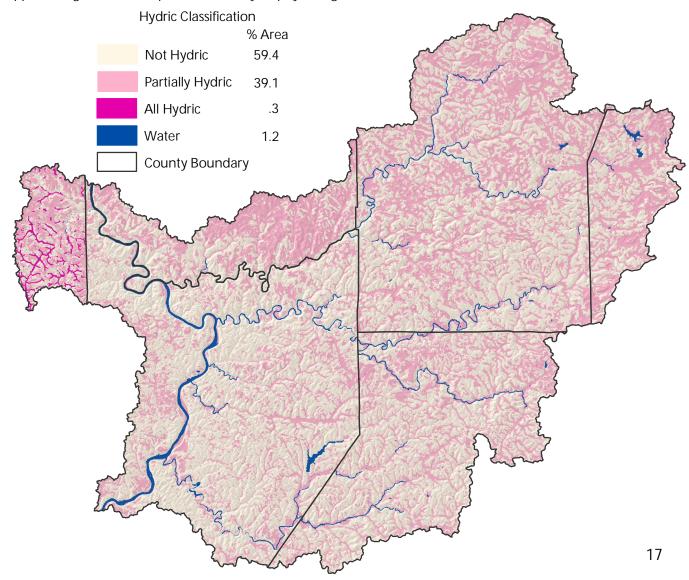




Hydric Soil Classification

This rating provides an indication of the proportion of the map unit that meets criteria for hydric soils. Map units that are dominantly made up of hydric soils may have small areas, or inclusions, of nonhydric soils in the higher positions on the landform, and map units dominantly made up of nonhydric soils may have inclusions of hydric soils in the lower positions on the landform.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part (Federal Register, 1994). These soils, under natural conditions, are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation.



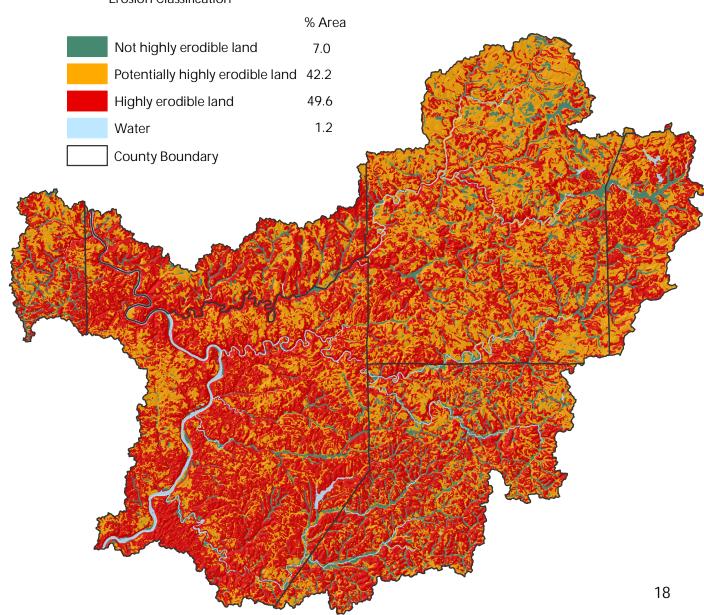




Highly Erodible Land

A soil map with an erodibilty index (EI) of 8 or greater is considered to be highly erodible land (HEL). The EI for a soil map unit is determined by dividing the potential erodibility for the soil map unit by the soil loss tolerance (T) value established for the soil in the FOTG as of January 1, 1990. Potential erodibility is based on default values for rainfall amount and intensity, percent and length of slope, surface texture and organic matter, permeability, and plant cover. Actual erodibility and EI for any specific map unit depends on the actual values for these properties.

Erosion Classification

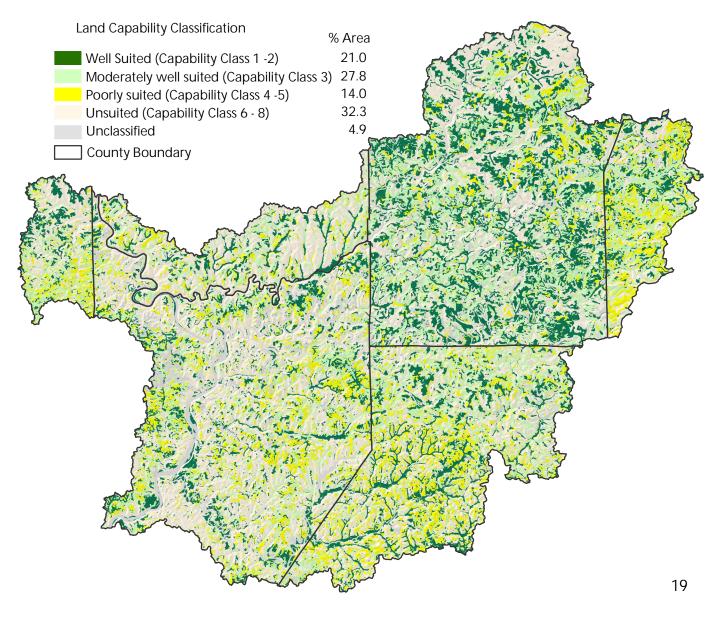




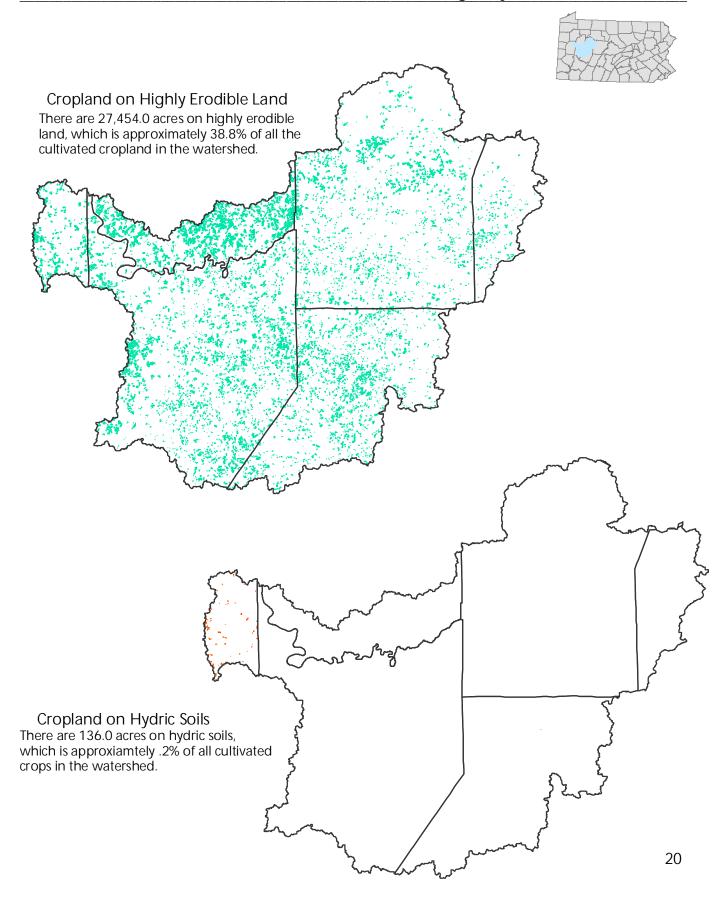


Land Capability Classification

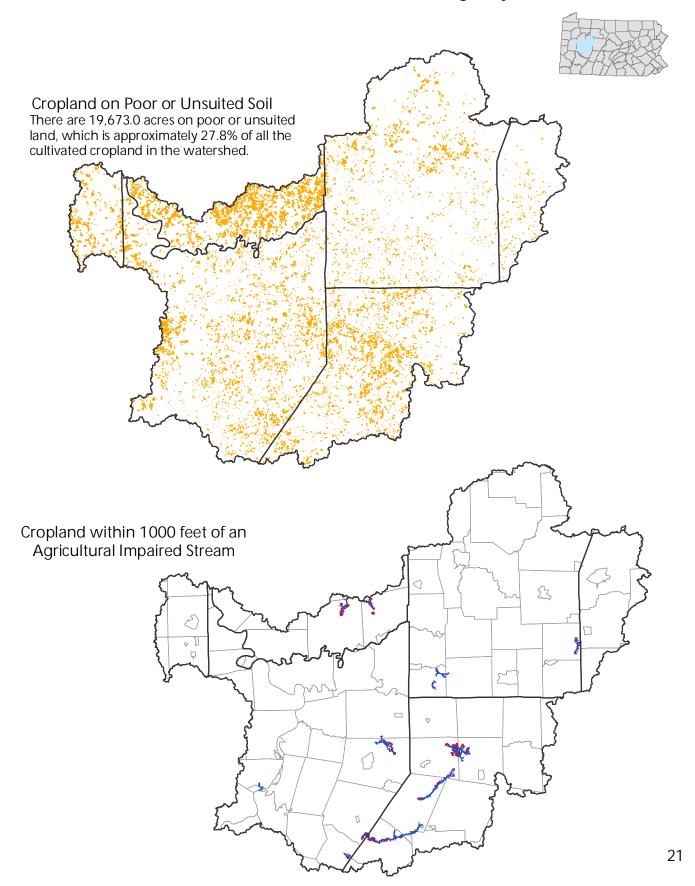
Land capability classification shows, in a general way, the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops. Crops that require special management are excluded. The soils are grouped according to their limitations for field crops, the risk of damage if they are used for crops, and the way they respond to management. The criteria used in grouping the soils do not include major and generally expensive landforming that would change slope, depth, or other characteristics of the soils, nor do they include possible but unlikely major reclamation projects. Capability classification is not a substitute for interpretations that show suitability and limitations of groups of soils for rangeland, for woodland, and for engineering purposes.















Resource Concerns

Major resource concerns in the area include:

- sheet and rill erosion
- streambank erosion
- streams affected impairment
- gullying
- surface compaction resulting from livestock
- reduction of organic matter on cropland
- subsidence resulting from mining
- land slippage

Conservation Practices

Common conservation practices for cropland:

- crop rotation
- contour farming
- nutrient management
- grassed and riparian forest buffers
- cover crops
- hayland planting
- diversions
- grassed waterways

Common pasture management practices:

- prescibed grazing
- watering systems
- fencing
- managing livestock access to streams
- pasture planting
- nutrient management





PRS Performance Measures 18

	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	Total	
Total Conservation Systems Planned (acres)	1076	8786	6698	7587	8485	NA	8737	9073	50,442	
Total Conservation Systems Applied (acres)	468	5390	4770	477	7919	NA	6256	7703	32,983	
Key Conservation Treatments										
Waste Storage Facility (number)	0	3	9	2	0	1	1	2	18	
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	2	1609	222	349	543	2	34	130	2,891	
Erosion Control Total Soils Saved (tons/year)	455	2934	2229	1640	3823	NA	NA	NA	11,081	
Nutrient Management (acres)	149	1687	1641	2870	2449	881	1964	691	12,332	
Pest Management (acres)	0	0	0	17	147	0	169	4	337	
Prescribed Grazing (acres)	0	1163	459	730	752	464	940	919	5,427	
Tree and Shrub Establishment (acres)	0	54	148	30	23	7	22	0	284	
Residue Management (acres)	55	836	1315	1455	1211	63	1243	1510	7,688	
Wildlife Habitat (acres)	0	769	198	492	345	126	1466	2149	5,545	
Wetlands Created, Restored, or Established	1	24	25	25	28	1	59	6	169	
	Acres in	Conser	vation F	Progran	าร					
Conservation Technical Assistance										
Planned	339	6205	4402	6047	7373	NA	5279	6104	35,749	
Applied	66	4370	3165	8095	7015	NA	3999	3858	30,568	
Conservation Reserve Program										
Planned	0	141	0	0	0	NA	2529	1794	4,464	
Applied	0	141	10	14	13	NA	1269	1982	3,429	
Environmental Quality Incentive Program						-	-			
Planned	30	1785		49	34	NA	562	1323	4,782	
Applied	0	1410	677	353	349	NA	521	1047	4,357	
Farmland Protection Policy/Farm and Ranch	Lands Pro	tection P	rogram							
Planned	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0	
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0	
Forestry Incentive Program										
Planned	0	0	130	238	0	NA	0	0	0	
Applied	0	0	25	279	0	NA	0	0	0	
Grasslands Reserve Program										
Planned				0	0	NA	135	0	135	
Applied				0	0	NA	0	0	0	
Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative										
Planned	30	1926							3,294	
Applied	0	624	306						930	
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program										
Planned	0	529		59	0		140		958	
Applied	0	97	206	6	0	NA	0	24	333	
Wetlands Reserve Program										
Planned	0	0		0	0		0		0	
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0	

NA - Reporting was unavailabel by Hydrologic Unit Code





Social and Census Data 19

				1			
	Armstrong	Butler	Clarion	Clearfield	Indiana	Jefferson	Total
Farms (number)	582	100	129	44	344	446	1,645
Land in farms (acres)	102,943	12,239	23,731	5,669	59,926	70,649	275,157
Total cropland (acres)	65,095	8,189	14,699	3,474	34,688	47,219	173,364
Principal operator by primary occupation -							
Farming (number)	296	54	26	22	167	225	790
	Farms by	/ Size					
1 to 9 acres	26	7	5	4	18	17	77
10 to 49 acres	99	27	19	11	69	83	308
50 to 179 acres	292	48	66	18	172	228	824
180 to 499 acres	127	15	30	9	67	99	347
500 to 999 acres	27	3	6	1	11	12	60
1,000 acres or more	12	1	3	0	7	6	29
Live	stock an	d Poult	ry				
Cattle and calves inventory (farms)	314	52	80	19	173	250	888
Cattle and calves inventory - Beef cows (farms)	243	39	59	15	100	190	646
Cattle and calves inventory - Milk cows (farms)	51	7	14	4	59	42	177
Hogs and pigs inventory (farms)	45	7	7	3	20	20	102
Sheep and lambs inventory (farms)	27	5	6	0	29	11	78
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory (farms)	46	8	11	5	28	29	127
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold (farms)	3	1	2	1	5	0	12
C	rops Har	vested					
Corn for grain (acres)	7,971	12,147	1,698	306	4,744	3,556	30,422
Corn for silage or greenchop (acres)	2,856	425	730	183	1,944	2,178	8,316
Wheat for grain, all (acres)	1,298	217	121	11	535	139	2,321
Oats for grain (acres)	2,395	443	835	128	2,324	1,943	8,068
Barley for grain (acres)	609	60	90	12	220	160	1,151
Soybeans for beans (acres)	2,128	279	191	6	1,577	(D)	4,181
Forage - land used for all hay and all haylage,							
grass silage, and greenchop (acres)	32,809	3,479	7,205	1,853	13,127	23,492	81,965
Vegetables harvested for sale (acres)	117	113	37	6	451	154	878
Land in orchards (acres)	105	13	18	9	73	41	259
Total cropland harvested (acres)	51,234		10,451	2,528	28,186	32,219	130,978
Farm (Operator						
White	862	147	175	61	501	628	2,374
Black or African American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	2	0	3	1	3	3	12
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Women	210	43	41	17	116	150	577





Partnership Groups:

A cooperative project involving NRCS and conservation partners, including:

- State Conservation Commission
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Pennsylvania Grazing/Forage Lands Conservation Coalition
- Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission





Footnotes/Bibliography

All data is provided "as is". There is no warranties, express or implied, including the warranty of fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this document. Use for planning purpose only.

1. Common Resource Area

Common Resource Area (CRA) delineation is defined as a geographical area where resource concerns, problems, or treatment needs are similar. More information can be found online at http://soils.usda.gov/survey/geography/cra.html

2. National Elevation Dataset (NED)

The NED is a seamless mosaic of the best-available elevation data. The primary source data were the USGS 7.5-minute (30-meter or 10-meter resolution) DEM's. A hillshade grid was also created using the DEM and used to creare a 3-D effect. More inforantion on NED can be found online at http://ned.usgs.gov/

3. Land Use / Land Cover 2001

Land Use / Land Cover map was created using the National Land Cover Dataset. The National Land Cover Dataset was compiled from Landsat satellite TM imagery with a spatial resolution of 30 meters and supplemented by various ancillary data (where available). More inforamtion can be found online at http://landcover.usgs.gov/

4. Average Annual Precipitation

The average annual precipitation data for this map layer were produced through a partnership between NRCS and the Spatial Climate Analysis Service at Oregon State University (OSU). The average annual precipitation is from 1961 through 1990. More information can be found online at http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/climate/index.html

5. National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

The NWI maps do not show all wetlands since the maps are derived from aerial photointerpretation with varying limitations due to scale, photo quality, inventory techniques, and other factors. More information can be found online at http://www.fws.gov/nwi/

6. Impaired Streams

Impaired Streams were derived from Pennsylavania Department of Protection Office of Water Management, 2006 list on Non-Attaining Streams. More information can be found on DEP website at http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/default.asp

7. Abandoned Mine Land

Abandoned Mine Land data was received from the Office of Surface Mining. The data set shows the approximate location of Abandoned Mine Land Problem Areas containing public health, safety, and public welfare problems created by past coal mining. More information can be found online at http://www.osmre.gov/osmaml.htm

8. Exceptional Value and High Quality Streams

Exceptional Value and High Quality Streams were taken from the Chapter 93 data layer received from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. For more information on what qualifies a stream as exceptional value or high quality or any information on Chapter 93 streams go to http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/chapter93/chap93toc.html





Footnotes/Bibliography

9. Pennsylvania Trout Waters

Pennsylvania Trout Water data is compiled by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. This layer was created based on the 1:24000 National Hydropahy Dataset (NHD) water bodies layer. More information can be found online at

http://www.fish.state.pa.us/fishpub/summary/troutwaters.html

10. Total Maximun Daily Load (TMDL)

TMDL is the sum of the individual waste load allocations and load allocations which would not produce a violation of water quality standards. The data used is from 2003, the PA Department of Environmental Protection is currently working on updating the GIS data available. More information can be found on TMDL locations in PA at http://www.dep.state.pa.us/watermanagement_apps/tmdl/, and/or nationally at http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/

11. Water Quality Testing Points

Water Quality Testing Points monitor water quality with emphasis on stream acidity in Pennsylvania with an assoiciated database. The database contains more than 33,466 records on water quality from 1986 to the present from 622 testing sites throughout Pennsylvania. Information in the records includes alkalinity and Ph and includes nitrates and phosphates for some sites since 1996. The information is maintained by the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring. More information can be found online at http://alpha.dickinson.edu/storg/allarm/allarm%20projects/database.htm

12. Water Resource Points

A Water Resource is a DEP primary facility type related to the Water Use Planning Program. More information can be found http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/default.asp

13. Natural Heritage Inventory Sites

The Natural Areas polygons were developed by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) County Natural Heritage Inventory (CNHI) Program. Natural Areas were identified using map and air photo interpretation, aerial rconnaissance, and field surveys. More information and county reports can be found online at http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/

14. Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas

Data was taken for the 1st Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (1992). For this watershed assessment, fourteen bird species were chosen to be focused on. More information about all bird species can be obtained at http://www.carnegiemnh.org/atlas/home.htm

15. Important Bird Areas

The Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) is a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. For more information nationally and/or on the state level go to http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/

16. Important Mammal Areas

Important Mammal Areas Project, IMAP, the first program of it's kind, was created by the Mammal Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PaBS). For more inforamtion go online to http://www.pawildlife.org/imap.htm



Middle Allegheny-Redbank Watershed



Footnotes/Bibliography

17. Soils

Soil Survey spatial and tabular data were used for the following survey areas:

Armstrong County (PA005)

Butler County (PA019)

Clarion County (PA031)

Clearfield County (PA033)

Elk County (PA607)

Indiana County (PA063)

Jefferson County (PA065)

Spatial and tabular data an be downloaded at http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/

18. Performance Results System (PRS)

PRS data was extracted from PRS by year, conservation system, conservation practice, and proagrams by hydrologic unit code. More information can be found online at the PRS homepage http://ias.sc.eqov.usda.gov/prshome/

19. Social and Census Data

Ag census data and ethnicity data were downloaded from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The data was adjusted by percent of hydrologic unit in the county. More information can be found online at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Census_of_Agriculture/index.asp